Amendments to the Specification (Abstract):

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 25, line 1, (*i.e.*, the Abstract) with the following amended paragraph:

~~GENERALIZED ASYNCHRONOUS HDLC SERVICES~~

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A router in a network comprises an interface system for receiving packets and has a plurality of channels and a plurality of framing service engines. The router is configured to assign the channels to individual framing service engines for framing services. The router has a channel manager for performing the assignments, and the channel manager is configured to receive and use data about the framing service engines. The router further comprises a framing memory for buffering communication between the interface system and the plurality of framing service engines. At least one framing service engine is configured to frame packets and at least one framing service engine is configured to deframe packets, and the framing service engines may be configured to operate on AHDLC packets. The router can be used with an interface system that comprises a plurality of network interfaces terminating a plurality of point to point links.